

“Nancy Barrett Met the Right Man at The Wrong Time

But The Story Has A Happy Ending Anyway!”

From **TV Dusk to Dawn** April 1977

As posted on

<http://forums.soapnet.go.com/n/pfx/forum.aspx?tsn=1&nav=messages&webtag=SoapnetRH&tid=15302> and linked at <http://www.dsboards.com/indexse05.html>

Animatedly perched atop the well-stuffed sofa cushions in the huge living room of her East Side Manhattan apartment, Nancy Barrett, the lovely actress who has been in *Dark Shadows*, *One Life to Live*, and *Ryan's Hope* declared: I've just about decided everything in life is timing! Her blue-grey eyes sparkling, her shiny blond hair fanning out over her pale shoulders, she resembled a John Tenniel drawing of Alice in Wonderland. And her voice held the wonderment to match the picture as she said, "I'm happier now than I have ever been in my life."

"I'm happy in my relationship with my fiancé. I can't believe how well things have worked out. And it was all a question of timing. When Harold and I originally met six years ago, we weren't the least bit interested in each other. Some mutual friends introduced us, but neither of us was impressed with the other because at the time we were both romantically involved elsewhere."

"Then, two years later, when the same mutual friends invited me to a party at Harold's apartment, I said, 'Please - no matchmaking, we've already been through that and it didn't pan out.' 'Oh, come along to the party, anyway', they said, 'There'll be lots of people there. You don't have to pair off with anyone.'

"But that time Harold and I did pair off. We hit it off immediately. The chemistry was perfect - so perfect it worried me. During the party, on a Saturday night, he asked me out to dinner that Monday. I was playing slightly aloof and asked him to call me on Monday to check it. On Monday, a dozen roses arrived and Harold called. We did go out to dinner - and we've gone out to a lot of dinners since then."

Nancy and Harold (whose last name she'd rather not disclose since he's one of New York's top psychiatrists and she wants to guard his privacy) have been formally engaged for a year. But no wedding date has been set - and Nancy is not pressing for one.

"Everything is perfect now," she said. "I'm afraid to tempt fate. We'll probably get married in time. But there's no hurry. I feel very secure in the relationship - and I don't really feel pressured because I don't want children."

When Harold and I started to see each other four years ago, I decided I didn't want to leave town to work in regional theater - or go to the Coast to try for a TV series. I wanted the relationship to remain constant."

"I wasn't doing a soap and I felt I needed to work at something. I've always been interested in the sciences and Harold and I had just acquired three new doctor friends. One of them was a woman who had gone back to school to get her medical degree after she had two children. That gave me the idea - about going back to school, not about having children!"

"I have a B.A. in Theater Arts from U.C.L.A., I enrolled for night courses in Hunter College to finish my pre-med requirements in organic chemistry, to become a psychiatrist, you know, you have to become an M.D. first. Just working nights, the whole thing would have taken me 7 or 8 years. But it seemed like an interesting and logical thing to do. Even if I never went beyond any medical degree, I could always work as a doctor. And my work is very important to me."

"I must admit, my first love is acting so when I was offered a role on *One Life to Live*, I stopped the pre-med courses. I never went back to them. But maybe someday, I'll start again."

Ryan's Hope was Nancy's fifth serial in the past decade. Now that her first, the Gothic chiller, *Dark Shadows*, (on which she played the resident ingénue for five years) is back in syndication, she was seen on two sudsers simultaneously in some parts of the country.

Between *Hope* and *Shadows*, the actress had roles on *Somerset*, *The Doctors*, and *One Life to Live*. She also appeared on Chapter 12 of *The Adams Chronicles*.

"I know some of the people who were on *Dark Shadows* feel nothing will ever compare to it, but quite frankly, I was much happier on *Ryan's Hope*," Nancy confessed.

"I've always had ambivalent feelings about *Dark Shadows*. It was too ambitious. When it was good, it was brilliant. But we had some real disaster days when everything went bad - from costumes to hair to lines to sets. Too much was required in a medium where getting shows on quickly is of the essence. It was too involved technically and too exhausting physically. Too much was asked of people - technicians, writers, actors, and everyone for a half-hour show, if it had been about 25% less ambitious, it could have been great. And it might still be on the air."

Nancy was one of the few *DS* cast members who was prominently featured in the two films based on the serial. *House Of Dark Shadows* and *Night Of Dark Shadows*. And both pictures have been exhibited around the world, dubbed into appropriate languages.

"My friend Ralph Douglas (he's the floor manager for *Another World*) was down in Puerto Rico and he saw *House of Dark Shadows* advertised at a theater so he went in to see it. He'd never seen it before. When he heard this fluent Spanish coming out of my mouth, he laughed so hard they threw him out of the theater!"

Nancy does have faithful fans! And fiancé Harold is one of them.

"He loved to watch me on *Ryan's Hope* and tried to schedule his patients so he could see the days I was on. He gets a big kick out of my career. So do I. But it's not all-important to me. It never has been. I never wanted to be a star.

"He's fantastic - a very warm, loving person - and the eternal optimist in every arena. He never looks at the dark side. There's no problem that can't be solved. I'm very emotional and I used to cry and scream and carry on at the slightest provocation. I still cry and

scream and carry on but not like I did. I'm more selective. It takes too much energy. And I don't have any reason to make noise anymore. Sometimes I do it just for fun. I get it out of my system and it makes me feel just wonderful. But of course everyone around me gets very depressed. Everybody but Harold. He's very understanding - and a real Rock of Gibraltar."

We suspect Nancy and Harold will be saying their "I do's" before long. Let's face it - when you're a high-strung young woman like the most charming and talented Miss Barrett, it's nice to have a psychiatrist around the house!

Bernice Thall

Responses

From: safeandsound

Posted: Dec-29

To: rff75

Thanks!

Hmm... Faith Catlin was unhappy on Ryan's Hope - while it turns out Nancy Barrett was happy on the show.

Nancy's betrothed - and future husband's name - was Dr. Harold Kaplan. He passed away in 1997. He was once rock-n-roll producer Phil Spector's psychiatrist. Some DS sites say Nancy and Harold were married in the early 1970's - but this article and the one on RBO - both from 1977 - say they weren't married yet.

I haven't been able to find out if Nancy ever became a psychiatrist.

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From: scarlettudor4

• Posted: Dec-30

To: safeandsound

Wasn't Nancy Barrett on RH as Faith #2 for a very brief period of time? I remember the beautiful long blonde hair. But she didn't seem quite right for Faith. I'm surprised she was on long enough to know she liked the set. And for her fiance to watch her.

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From: rff75

• Posted: Dec-30

To: scarlettudor4

scarlettudor4 said...

Wasn't Nancy Barrett on RH as Faith #2 for a very brief period of time?

Yes, Nancy was on the show for about eight weeks.

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Hmm... Faith Catlin was unhappy on Ryan's Hope - while it turns out Nancy Barrett was happy on the show.

S&S Nancy was quoted in an interview Wanda shared years ago as

saying her departure was 'mutual', but others have said it was more the show's idea.

I think this interview was conducted when she was still on the show, the previous summer, and the writer inserted past tense where needed. There is another RH actor interview from the same magazine, April 1977, and it mentions he (an original cast member) has been on the show a little over a year, and a play he'd just completed, which I know he was in this play in August 1976

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From: joeschmoe972

• Posted: Dec-30

To: rff75

Yes, Nancy was on the show for about eight weeks.

=====

It's been posted here in the past that she was on exactly 9 episodes.

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To: joeschmoe972

joeschmoe972 said...

Yes, Nancy was on the show for about eight weeks.

=====

It's been posted here in the past that she was on exactly 9 episodes.

Yes, 9 episodes in less than two months.

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She began sometime early to mid-July, right after Jack and Mary's wedding, and her final appearance was the last week of August.

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From: discomusic

• Posted: Dec-30

To: rff75

:: Unread ::

Thanks for posting I am a big Nancy fan and loved her on Dark Shadows,i enjoy seeing her brief stint as Faith,but i feel she wasn't on long enough to even feel the role out or get it warmed up,so who's to say if she would have been a good Faith or not,some have said age,but she was not a senior citizen by 1975,still very beautiful. I beleive she served her purpose to the RH powers that be in that she was a temp. stand in until they could find the Faith they were looking for & they found a "star" in Catherine Hicks indeed 😊

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From **The Dark Shadows Forums** <http://www.dsboards.com/indexse05.html>

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Benefactor](#)**



[1977 Nancy Barrett article posted on Soap Net](#)

« on: Yesterday at 07:14:40 PM »



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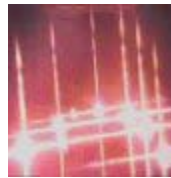
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My soul is
free flying in
the sky...



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And BTW, for those who may not know, when Nancy refers to her role on *One Life To Live*, she's not referring to her part as prosecutor Deborah Van Druden, who was on the canvas at the same time as Grayson Hall's Euphemia Ralston and Anthony George's Dr. Will Vernon - she's referring to an earlier and much meatier role as Rachel Wilson.